

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2006**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix,
Chair
Robert Duvall for Roberto Armijo, Community
Information & Referral Services
Karen Zienta for Maryann Beerling Thomas,
New Arizona Family
Allison Blanchard, Governor's Office
Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
Tony Johnson for Brad Bridwell, US Vets
Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept of Corrections
Tom Canasi, City of Tempe, Co-Vice Chair
Kendra Cea, APS
Trinity Donovan, Valley of the Sun United
Way
Gilbert Lopez for Steve Frate, City of Glendale,
Councilmember
*Theresa James, City of Tempe
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Co-
Vice Chair
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
Mike McQuaid, HSC
*Nick Margiotta, Phoenix Police Department
Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Charities
Terra Masias for Chicanos Por La Causa
*Meggan Medina, AZ Dept of Housing
*Guy Mikkelsen, Foundation for Senior Living
*Carolyn Mitchell, Wells Fargo
Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach
Ministries
*Brenda Robbins, Department of Health
Services
Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family
*Annette Stein, Maricopa County HS
Jacki Taylor, ACEH
*Margaret Trujillo, Maricopa County Courts

*Mike Whalen, Councilmember of Mesa
*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,
Supervisor
*Ted Williams, AZ Behavioral Health
Corporation
Diana Yazzie Devine, Native American
Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Betty Andolino, Another Chance
Ken Einbinder, HUD
John Epler, Epler & Associates
Deborah Forbes-Baker, Salvation Army
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Walt Gray, St. Vincent de Paul
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed
Joyce Gross, Town of Buckeye
Katie Hobbs, Sojourner Center
Kim Hohman, Governor's Office
Mark Holleran, CASS
Gina McDevitt-Parks
Nancy Marion, HRE
Brande Mead, MAG
Linda Mushkatel, Maricopa County
Bill Petty, Another Chance Meta
Sonye Pierce-Johnson, ADOC
Israel Rosario, Maricopa County
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Ellen Stovey, ASU School of Social Work

**Those members neither present nor represented by
proxy.*

+Those members present by audio or videoconference.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Greg Stanton called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments from the audience were made at this time. Chairman Stanton noted that Riann Henkin has moved to the Senior Department at City of Phoenix and welcomed Deanna Jonovich to the Continuum of Care Regional Committee as the new representative for the City of Phoenix. He also added that Nick Margiotta from the Phoenix Police Department is a new member but could not be here today.

3. Approval of the July 17, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Stanton called for a motion to approve the July 17, 2006 meeting minutes. Co-Vice Chair Don Keuth made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Laura Skotnicki seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

4. Planning Subcommittee Report

Chairman Stanton introduced Brande Mead, MAG, who provided an update on the Planning Subcommittee. Ms. Mead commented that the Subcommittee met on September 13, 2006 and discussed the annual homeless appreciation luncheon that will be held on December 8, 2006 at the Arizona Biltmore from 11:30 a.m. –1:30 p.m. She added that the focus this year will be on local success stories. Ms. Mead said that she is looking for local people who were formerly homeless and have successfully achieved housing to tape for a video clip. The video will be shown during the luncheon.

Ms. Mead stated that Brad Bridwell, U.S. Vets, reported on this year's Stand Down event. The Stand Down is taking place October 27-29 and people can contact Brad Bridwell for more information. She also reported that John Enos provided some training for HUD applicants on documenting homelessness, match funding and leverage.

5. Housing Alternatives for Homeless People

Chairman Stanton introduced John Epler, MAG Associate, who presented information and shared best practices from other communities on moving homeless people from the streets into permanent housing. Mr. Epler stated that the Continuum of Care is working to move people from streets into housing. He announced a workshop tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. at the ASU downtown campus, building C, room 145. Mr. Epler emphasized the importance of housing by saying that about 45 percent of people in the County would need to require work 115 hours per week to pay an affordable rent.

Mr. Epler talked about related issues like supportive services, timing of housing, crisis respite and early intervention and prevention. Mr. Epler said that he has looked at best practices throughout the country. Housing first has had great success. He added that it is important to provide services as well. Mr. Epler reviewed a sampling of models. Beyond Shelter is regarded as developing the initial housing first model. They serve very large families and 50 percent of the population is recovering from substance abuse and 85 percent have remained in permanent housing. Portland has a number of housing programs. More than 75 percent of families in Portland that entered a program remain in scattered site permanent rental housing. One program that is doing tremendous work in Hennepin County is a rapid re-housing model. The program is set up with a housing coordinator and a case manager and provides

incentives to land-lords, like putting down a deposit fund, security deposits, first and last month's rent.

Mr. Epler presented information on outreach, crisis intervention and stabilization, screening intake and assessment, early permanent housing, and client-centered/client based support services. He discussed the needs of land-lords as well. Mr. Epler said that it is important to focus on client centered services. Mr. Epler talked about supportive services. Some other considerations to keep in mind are looking at family size and potential for growth, appropriate locations, and locating services that are close by.

Some of the challenges were discussed. He discussed the boards, roles and missions of non-profit agencies. He stressed that on-going engagement of family with services is critical to maintain families in housing.

Mr. Epler mentioned that Maricopa County has many strong assets like the service provider network. He added that there is interest by some housing providers to pursue housing alternatives, significant homeless housing resources and the state is active in both homeless housing and long-term solutions.

Mr. Epler talked about some of the possible solutions and assets. Developing community buy-in is being done and needs to continue. He said that it is important to look at the target populations' needs and to look at successful programs. Then, the community can develop strategies as a continuum and find funding solutions. Again he said that it is important to not leave out the landlords and to include them in the planning process.

Mr. Epler mentioned that there is a Housing Alternatives workshop taking place tomorrow and he will go into more detail about the housing issues discussed today. He encouraged members to attend the workshop.

Diana Yazzie Devine mentioned that we need subsidies to make the projects work. She said that successful projects are highly subsidized. Ms. Devine also said that there are some workforce housing initiatives in place like the work that Gregg Holmes is doing and that the Governor has developed housing strategies.

6. Downtown Phoenix Low-Demand Shelter

Chairman Stanton introduced Mark Holleran to provide an update on the downtown Phoenix low-demand shelter. Mr. Holleran recognized his partners, Mike McQuaid and Darlene Newsome. Mr. Holleran said that the winter overflow center opened in November and served clients until March. On March 26, 2006 the low demand shelter opened. Maricopa County and the Arizona Department of Housing provided \$500,000 each and opened three additional sites. He said that the number of men, women and children that were served at the shelter were greater than ever before. Mr. Holleran referred to a graph which showed the numbers of homeless people at the shelter. He pointed out the high number of people turned away due to lack of space. He also commented that the high number of men has remained consistent. Mr. Holleran said that the facility can handle about 300 men and has been at capacity each night. He said that the women are being served at 9th Avenue and Madison by

UMOM New Day Center. He pointed out that UMOM has served 100 women a night on several occasions. Mr. Holleran said that the Day Resource Center serves about 15 families per night. He said that there is an average of about 25 people turned away each night and the numbers are climbing.

Mr. Holleran said that since the opening of the Human Services Campus, the police reports show that crime is down by almost 75 percent in that neighborhood. However, the neighbors have on-going concerns about the congregation of homeless people and the potential for an increase of homeless people in the neighborhood as a result of the campus. He added that St. Vincent de Paul is now serving breakfast in the mornings.

Mr. Holleran said that a survey is being conducted to find out what is bringing the additional people to the campus but he does not have the results at this time. He said that Marty Schultz and Maricopa County has been very involved. He said that the low demand shelter should be funded until mid November this year. However, there may be some opportunities to continue the shelter through June 30th of next year. He said that he is hopeful that they will receive the needed funds to keep it open. Mr. Holleran said that there needs to be a regional discussion about solutions and the need for affordable, supportive housing to transition people from the Human Services Campus.

Dick Geasland said that 18-22 year olds who aren't going to CASS do not have a place to go. He estimates that there are between 25 to 45 youths on any given night in downtown and metro Phoenix area who said they would go to low demand shelter if available.

Mike McQuaid said that there are about 1,000 people at the Human Services Campus on any given night. He said that it is critical to have housing available so that these people have somewhere to go. He said that the fastest growing homeless population is women and families. He added that most of the downtown homeless people have found their way to the campus. Mr. McQuaid said that there is a critical need for supportive housing for their type of clients with supportive services. He added that he is very encouraged by the number of people who are talking about this issue.

7. 2006 HMIS Conference and CoC Forum Report

Ms. Mead reported on the 2006 HMIS Conference and Continuum of Care Forum that took place in Denver, Colorado September 18-20, 2006. She said that over 550 people attended the HMIS Conference and that over 450 people attended the CoC Forum. Ms. Mead said that she was very proud to represent the MAG Continuum of Care because of all the great things that were said about it. She said that the HMIS was mentioned as one of three best practices in the opening plenary session.

Ms. Mead said that she presented at both conferences about the Arizona Evaluation Project and on the management of the Continuum of Care. The presentations were very well received.

She said that HUD reinforced two goals: ending chronic homelessness and helping families move to self-sufficiency and into housing. Other priorities that were

discussed include: HMIS, discharge planning, and accessing mainstream resources. Ms. Mead said that proposed legislation was discussed that would establish that the Continuum of Care be the responsible “fiscal agent” for all the HUD funding. Ms. Mead stressed that the legislation has not passed and if it does that this Continuum of Care would be involved in what that would look like. She also added that additional funding would be provided above and beyond what we currently receive for staffing.

Ms. Mead said that HUD also focused on the importance of data quality through HMIS and that the point-in-time counts are very important. She said that HUD is going to start publishing the data from the applications on their website. Ms. Mead also mentioned that it is important that applicants continue their timely and efficient use of awarded funds. She said that grantees reflect on the Continuum and that if the funds are not used timely and efficiently that the continuum could potentially lose additional funding. The housing emphasis was discussed but HUD emphasized that they are not going to stop funding services. To conclude her report, Ms. Mead said that HUD continued to emphasize that performance matters and that continuums need to perform well in order to continue to receive funding.

Diana Yazzie Devine said that if the legislation passes she would like to be involved in the structuring of the fiscal agent’s role, monitoring responsibilities and site visit schedule. Chairman Stanton asked about the funding structure if the change were passed. Ken Einbinder said that the proposed legislation would take HUD out of the application process and the awards would be administered more like a block grant. Tom Canasi asked if the block grant would go to the state first and then trickle down. John Epler responded that it would not be that way. He said that their concept would be to provide funding above the pro rata need to the Continuum. He added that this hold harmless amount would not go through the state.

Bob Duvall added that Charlene Moran Flaherty from DES received an award for the Arizona Evaluation project.

Chairman Stanton suggested that we talk about congressional issues on a future agenda.

8. MAG Human Services Retreat Update

Amy St. Peter mentioned that the MAG Human Services Retreat is tentatively being planned for March 13, 2007 at ASU West. Ms. St. Peter said that ASU West would like to partner with MAG on this project. She said that breakout sessions are being planned to develop projects that address issue pairings. One example of issue pairing is the youth and domestic violence project. Within this model, the resources for each issue are utilized in areas of need that overlap. She said that the conference will held over half a day and will combine all of the MAG Human Services Committees. She said that this is the first attempt to collaborate all of the Human Services Committees.

Ms. St. Peter said that a planning session is being held this Friday at 10:00 a.m. and is open to anyone who wants to participate in the planning process. She added that skilled facilitators are needed for the event. She said that examples of collaboration will be showcased and she asked the committee to identify a collaboration example to represent the work of the Continuum of Care. Ms. St. Peter suggested the Human

Services Campus because it has been recognized widely. She said that the homeless street count is another good example of collaboration. Mike McQuaid suggested the Human Services Campus because it specifically shows how the public sector, private sector and service providers came together and how solutions to homelessness could be promoted regionally. Mr. McQuaid made a motion to use the Human Services Campus as the example of collaboration in the video for the Human Services Retreat. Don Keuth seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

9. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

10. Announcements

Diana Yazzie Devine announced that a 24 hour homeless immersion experience had recently taken place at Pendleton Court by a member of the community. She said that the experience went very well and she encouraged others to participate. She also mentioned that there is a traveling museum of affordable housing models in Phoenix right now. She said that some local projects are featured in the exhibit.

Jacki Taylor mentioned that registration is open for the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness statewide Conference taking place November 6th and 7th. Ms. Taylor encouraged people to attend the conference.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2006 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at St. Vincent De Paul, Human Services Campus, 1125 W. Jackson Street, Phoenix, AZ